

The PARANOID Newsletter

Because they ARE out to get you.

Introduction

This is the third issue of the PARANOID newsletter. This newsletter is for the person who takes their privacy VERY seriously. Lets face it, America is a POLICE STATE. Anything the government doesn't like is now considered terrorism. What would our founding father say if they were alive today! This DELUXE edition of the paranoid newsletter is exclusively dedicated to defeating FBI surveillance techniques. This current topic will continue into our next edition of the Paranoid Newsletter.

"In America, you listen to man on radio. In Russia, man on radio listen to *you!*", - Yakov Smirnoff

"You have such nice things in the U.S.—like warning shots!" - Yakov Smirnoff

How to detect and avoid FBI surveillance

If you're involved with any group that wants to change the *status quo*, then you're a target for surveillance – no matter how benign your goals. Sometimes simply being an American with an open mind and a diverse range of interests is enough to invite surveillance.

The FBI is not just a police agency. It is more than that. It is a security service. There are important differences between police agencies and security services. Every government has a security service. The mission of a security service is to suppress anti-government activity. That's because the prime directive of a government is to stay in power. This means that most governments see their own population as the most serious threat.

That's where the security service comes in. This means suppressing dissent and criticism. It means preserving the status quo. It means keeping the government in power, no matter whether the government rules with the consent of the people or without the consent of the people. Look around you. It is a self-evident truth that the nastier the government, the nastier its security service. Referring to a security service as *The Thought Police* is not too far from the truth.

The FBI understandably does not have a history of respect for civil rights in its capacity as a security service. The FBI's record of unconstitutional and illegal actions against American citizens is readily available to anyone who takes the trouble to investigate. But don't overlook the bigger picture. The FBI is not out of control. On the contrary, it is very much in control. The FBI is acting with the knowledge – and approval – of the government. The FBI is, after all, the government's security service. The FBI is responsible for protecting the government from the people.

Countersurveillance skills give you the ability to reach your goals – political or otherwise – in spite of surveillance and interference by a security service like the FBI. If you don't have countersurveillance skills, you are not going to reach your goals. The security service is going to make sure of that. In fact, you probably won't even realize that your plans have been secretly and systematically thwarted. It's time to wake up. If you're involved in any group that challenges the status quo, the security service is going to take an interest in you. No

matter how benign your goals, you are seen as a potential threat to the government. Ipso facto, you become a target for surveillance by *The Thought Police*. Being innocent is no protection against surveillance.

Spy-proof Lesson #1 – Any group that engages in discussion or actions that challenge the status quo must have a countersurveillance section. That means any group. That means you. It is not a matter of choice. It is not a matter of opinion. It is not a matter of preference. Here's why. Your adversary is going to engage in covert actions against you. For your group to survive and reach its goals, you must defend yourself against these covert actions. It does not matter that you don't see the government as your adversary. In fact, it's irrelevant. All that matters is that the government sees you as their adversary.

If you don't grasp this fundamental principle, then your group is doomed to mediocrity. It will never reach its goals, no matter how noble. It's like trying to play professional hockey without learning how to avoid a body-check against the boards. Wake up, sissy. Just because you'd never dream of intentionally assaulting your opponent doesn't mean that he isn't planning to deliberately cripple you at his first opportunity. It is important that you understand what this means. A security service – and this includes the FBI – plays according to *Big Boys' Rules*. This means they play for keeps and they play to win. They offer no mercy because they expect none.

Part of growing up is the realization that the world is infested with unpleasant personality types like thugs, bullies, and sociopaths. A sizable percentage of these types end up working for security services. Another part of growing up is accepting that you just can't reason with some people.

How countersurveillance works

Most people don't realize that a security service will use surveillance in four different ways – for four different purposes. These are observation, infiltration, sabotage, and intimidation. All of these threats can be lethal to you and your organization.

Surveillance threat #1 – Observation. A security service uses surveillance to watch you. They find out what you're doing. They discover who your contacts, members, operatives, associates, and friends are. They learn your plans. They use your conversations as evidence when they arrest you on charges of conspiracy. Most people don't realize that *conspiracy* is the most common grounds for arrest when surveillance is involved. Yes, just *talking* about some topics can get you arrested. What about free speech? Not when *The Thought Police* are around.

Surveillance threat #2 – Infiltration. A security service uses surveillance to learn enough about you so they can infiltrate agents into your group. Infiltration is dangerous for two reasons. First, an infiltrated agent can act as an *informant*, alerting the security service to your plans and providing evidence that can be used later for arrest, coercion, or blackmail. Second, an infiltrated agent can act as an *agent-provocateur*. This is someone who pretends to enthusiastically support your cause, while in reality encouraging you to commit illegal or reckless acts that become grounds for arrest by the security service. Many groups have been tricked into illegal behavior that they otherwise would have never considered. Do not underestimate the damage that an *agent-provocateur* can do.

Surveillance threat #3 – Sabotage. A security service uses surveillance to learn everything about you, your group, its goals, and its plans. They can use this information to secretly sabotage your operations. Things just seem to go wrong at the worst moment, yet you can never really pin down what the problem is. An effective security service has a range of sabotage capabilities, ranging from *dirty tricks* to *death squads*. Some American citizens are beginning to speculate that the FBI may operate *death squads*. They claim it is easy for an organization that operates in secret to arrange situations where murder can be camouflaged as misadventure, accident, illness, criminal activity, chance events, or suicide. How better to disable a persistent grass-roots

movement than by arranging the demise of its leader via a traffic accident, mugging, or suicide?

Surveillance threat #4 – Intimidation. A security service can use surveillance to control you. It's a form of mind control. The FBI is currently enjoying success with this tactic against a number of militia and patriot groups. That's because fear is a powerful tool. If you know you're under surveillance, you're afraid to do anything. The FBI has developed this mind-game to a sophisticated level. After they've let you see their surveillance team, they merely need to make an appearance once a month or so. You're so terrified that you assume you're under surveillance 24-hours a day. The FBI has won. You are paralyzed by fear. For some targets of surveillance, all that's required is an appearance twice a year by the FBI to keep you immobilized. Of course, none of these mind-games work if you've got countersurveillance skills and can spot the gaps in surveillance.

How countersurveillance works Most people don't realize what countersurveillance can achieve for them. First, it gives you the ability to detect the presence of a surveillance team. This means you can immediately stop engaging in any behavior that might incriminate you. But, even more important, countersurveillance skills can give you the ability to cloak your actions. You can carry out operations without the knowledge of the surveillance team. This means your group can reach its goals even while under hostile surveillance.

Countersurveillance advantage #1 – Detecting your adversary. If you can detect the presence of the surveillance team, you can avoid arrest by immediately stopping any activity that might incriminate you. Being able to detect surveillance gives you a margin of safety that you otherwise wouldn't have.

Countersurveillance advantage #2 – Thwarting your adversary. Knowing that you're under surveillance means you can begin to thwart your adversary's attempts to gather information about you. For example, realizing that your vehicle is bugged means that you'll stop engaging in incriminating conversation in your car. Or, even better, you can engage in contrived conversations and feed misinformation to the surveillance team. Being able to detect surveillance gives you the opportunity to confuse and confound the security service.

Countersurveillance advantage #3 – Achieving your goals. Detecting surveillance and thwarting the surveillance team are noteworthy achievements. They enable you and your group to survive. But they're strictly defensive. You'll never achieve your goals until you go on the offensive. And that's the most powerful benefit that countersurveillance can give you – the ability to keep doing what you want to, even though you're under surveillance. Around the world, a number of intelligence agencies and guerrilla groups have proven that you can carry out operations while you're under hostile surveillance – and the security service will be none the wiser. These intelligence agencies and guerrilla groups have developed a system for surviving – *and thriving* – while under surveillance. A number of underground groups are already using this system to conduct operations in the United States.

Here's why it works. A security service can only achieve its objectives by intercepting communication between people. This means you can beat the security service if you can deny them the ability to watch, read, overhear, or participate in your communication with other people. In effect, you can beat the security service by using *stealth*. You can do this in two ways.

Stealth method #1 – If you are skilled in countersurveillance, you can exploit the gaps that are present in surveillance operations. This means you engage in operational activity only when the surveillance team isn't monitoring you. Even round-the-clock surveillance has gaps in it. If you're under sporadic FBI surveillance designed to intimidate you by keeping you frightened, you'll enjoy huge gaps that you can exploit.

Stealth method #2 – If you are skilled in elliptical conversation, you can carry on communications even though you're under surveillance. Elliptical conversation is dialog that says one thing but means another. Quite often

two people who've known each other for a long time have built up a kind of shorthand conversation. By referring to past shared incidents that the surveillance team is unaware of, the two individuals can send hidden meanings to one another. They can also use code-words (cryptonyms) to disguise the real meaning of their communication.

If you observe that you are under surveillance, it's okay to be cautious, even a bit suspicious. But you don't want your choices to become limited by fear. You don't want to let fear run your life. Surveillance often occurs in an urban setting. Offices. Homes. Streets. Sidewalks. Motels. Restaurants. Neighborhoods. Surveillance is urban conflict. It's that simple. As soon as you become aware you're being watched, surveillance becomes urban conflict. A number of governments have done research into urban conflict. Why? Because governments create urban conflict with their security service, undercover cops, and other operations. They do research so they can understand how to fully control the urban conflict they create. (Example: intelligence units of US Marines are currently mapping *Chicago*.)

Urban conflict is very stress-inducing for people like cops, narcs, SWAT teams, riot squads, informants, you know the type. It's also stressful for surveillance teams – and for the targets of surveillance. That means people like you and me. This is just part of the unavoidable damage a surveillance team inflicts on you, no matter whether you're guilty or innocent. First, remember that you're not alone. All targets of surveillance go through this. It's natural. It's part of the game. You need to be careful not to fall into the trap of being too suspicious, too cautious. You've got to be careful to avoid becoming one of the 25% who let fear run their lives. Think things through. Logically. Sensibly. Of course the FBI doesn't want you to do that. The FBI would prefer you let fear make your decisions. Don't let the FBI win that head-game.

The FBI: A dangerous adversary...

The FBI is mainly interested in activity that occurs while you are out of your vehicle. The goal of an FBI vehicle surveillance team, therefore, is to track you to that location – and then help the foot surveillance team establish contact on you.

Background. The FBI's vehicle surveillance system is the result of six decades of experience. From rudimentary beginnings during Prohibition, the FBI system as it exists today is built in large part from techniques originally developed from 1938 to 1943 by the Gestapo to monitor and suppress resistance in Nazi-occupied countries. With the addition of more than 50 years of modifications and improvements, the FBI today possesses a surveillance apparatus that has led to the ruin of many suspects.

Depending on the situation, FBI agents can choose from three different methods of vehicle surveillance. These methods are *floating-box* surveillance, *hand-off* surveillance, and *static* surveillance.

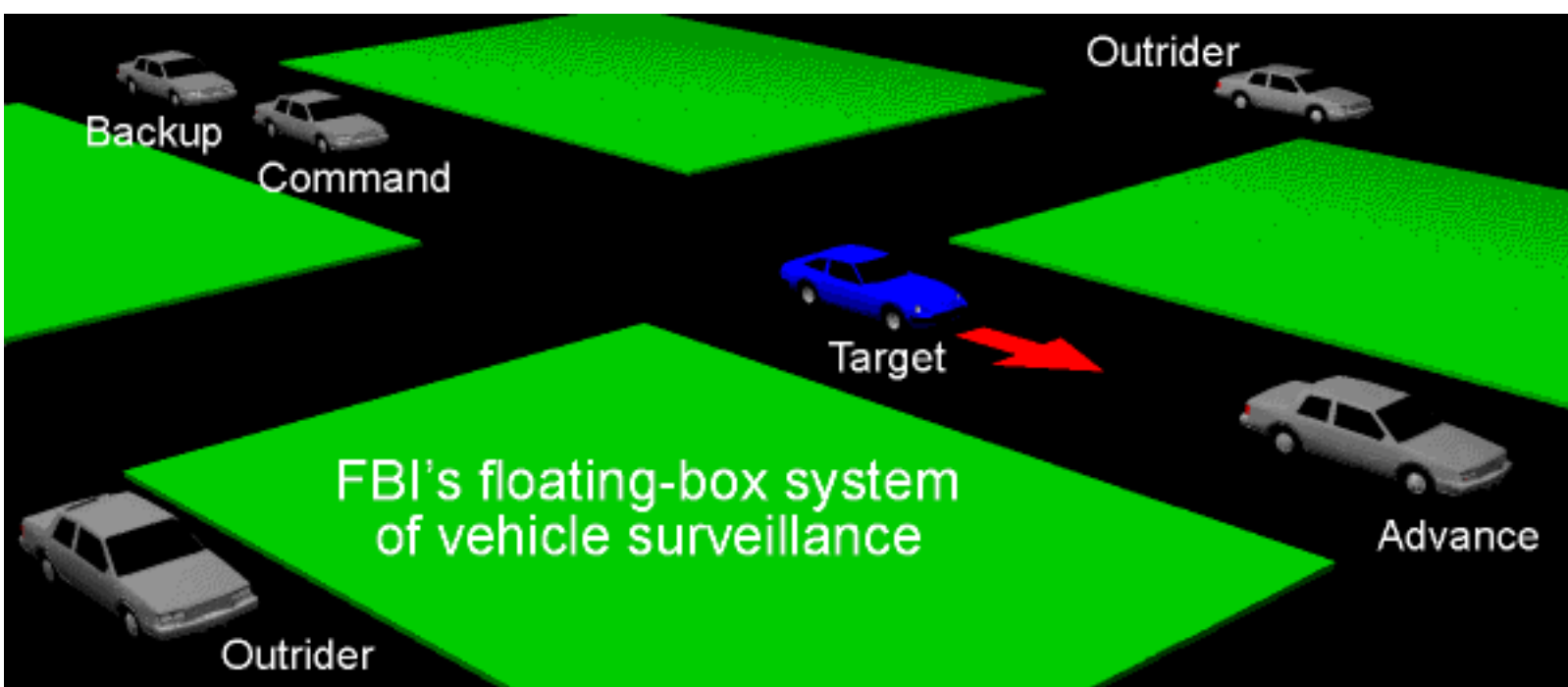
Floating-box surveillance. Floating-box surveillance is based on continuous coverage by the same team. FBI agents create a box of surveillance vehicles around you. The box floats with you as you travel along your route. Hence the name floating-box. It is very effective in urban and suburban locations. Very few suspects break out of a properly-run floating-box.

Hand-off surveillance. Hand-off surveillance involves more than one team. At key intersections or other *decision points* along your route, surveillance control is passed from one floating-box team to another. This is called phased coverage. It is very effective when large distances are involved – freeways, expressways, long commutes, highways, and so on. It is also used in city situations when lengthy periods of time are involved.

Static surveillance. Static surveillance is also based on phased coverage, but it uses *fixed observation posts*

instead of a floating-box. Each observation post is located at a decision point (major intersection, etc.) along the target's route. Although this method of surveillance leaves many gaps in coverage, it is very difficult to detect this type of surveillance. The FBI uses this method when they first begin coverage on a hard target (such as a trained intelligence agent who is likely to be on the lookout for surveillance). The FBI switches to floating-box surveillance after they have identified general locations where coverage is required.

The FBI's floating-box is a powerful system. The wheel artists don't follow you – they *surround* you. They blend in. They become part of your ecosystem. An FBI floating-box can be run with as few as three vehicles – or as many as 20. A team consisting of seven to ten vehicles is typical. It is not unheard-of for 50 vehicles to be involved, especially in a major case where arrest is imminent. The FBI has for many years managed to keep secret the size of their vehicle surveillance teams. Even in court proceedings, the most they'll admit to is 20 vehicles. In some surveillance situations, FBI wheel artists don't just blend in with your environment, they *become* your environment. The image shown below illustrates the major components of the FBI's *floating-box* system of vehicle surveillance.



The target's vehicle is shown in blue. The vehicles of the surveillance team are depicted in gray. The green rectangles represent urban terrain. The illustration is not rendered to scale. Distances in the real world are significantly greater. Furthermore, surveillance vehicles in the real world are *never* the identical make, model, and color. FBI teams use sedans, coupes, station wagons, pickup trucks, vans, minivans, sport utility vehicles, taxis, motorcycles, commercial trucks, ambulances, 18-wheelers, and others.

Specialized Roles

Each of the surveillance vehicles in the above illustration is charged with carrying out a specific assignment.

Command vehicle. The *command vehicle* is tasked with maintaining visual contact with the target. The agent is said to have *command of the target*. This is a pivotal role. This agent keeps the other team members informed of the target's direction, speed, intentions, etc.

Backup vehicle. The *backup vehicle* provides a fill-in function. Because the *command vehicle* is the vehicle most likely to be detected by the target, the FBI has devised a number of strategies that let the *backup vehicle* take over the command role, thereby allowing the previous command vehicle to exit the surveillance box. Many suspects have been duped by this strategy, as you'll learn later in this article.

Advance vehicle. The *advance vehicle* is like an early warning system. The agent provides advance warning of obstacles, hazards, or traffic conditions that would otherwise catch the surveillance team unaware. The *advance vehicle* also fulfills another important function. If the FBI has bugged your telephone or your office or your residence, they're likely to already know your destination. Naturally, the *advance vehicle* arrives before you do. Many suspects have been completely fooled by the undercover FBI agent who is already seated at the restaurant when the suspect arrives.

Outrider vehicle. The *outrider vehicles* patrol the perimeter of the floating-box. Their assignment is to make certain that the target does not get outside the containment of the box. They also play a key role when the target makes a turn at an intersection, as you'll learn later in this article.

Surveillance advantages

The floating-box is a very powerful and flexible system. It allows the FBI to successfully respond to a variety of situations. The FBI is almost never caught off-guard.

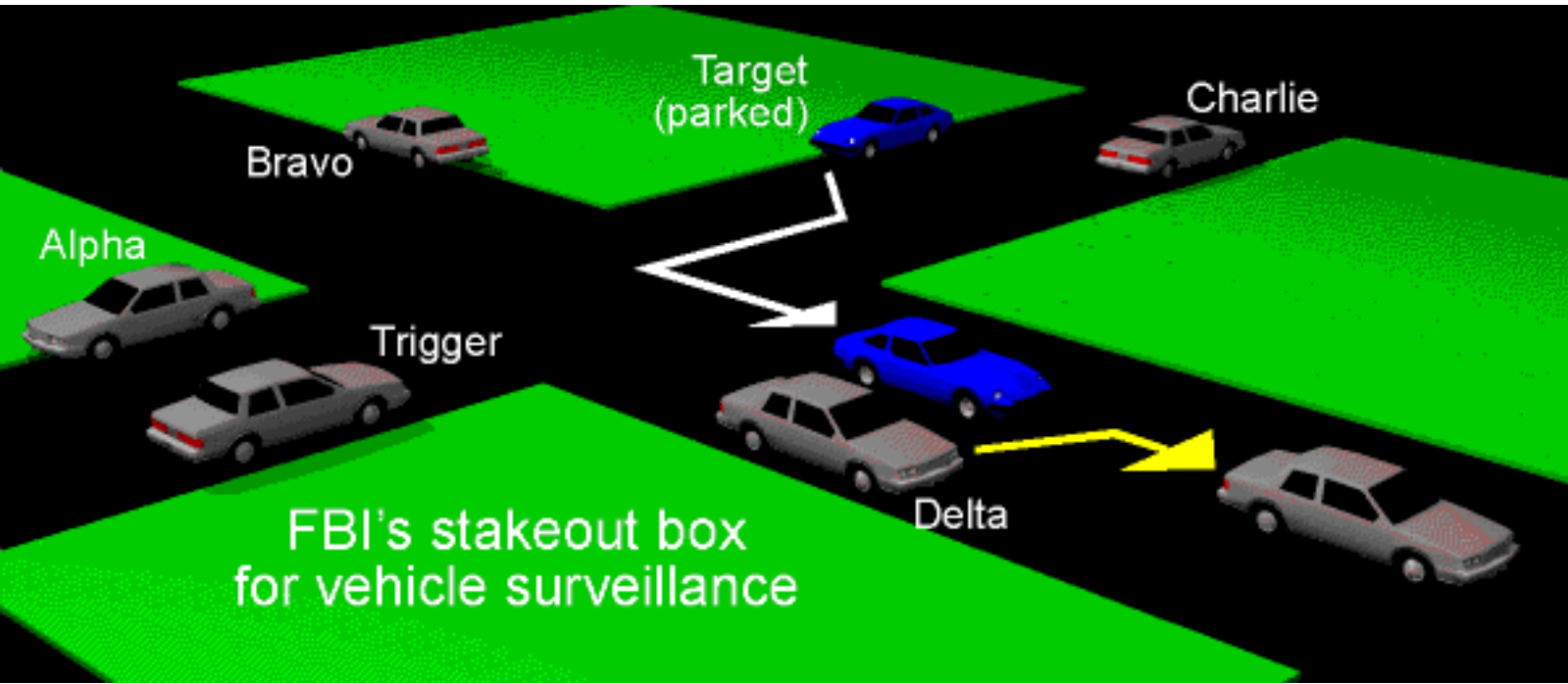
Recovery from mistakes. If visual contact with the target is lost, the box can be collapsed inward, enabling the agents to quickly re-acquire *command of the target*. (Whenever the FBI loses visual contact with the target, the surveillance team immediately executes a *lost-command drill*. The FBI has a number of strategies they use to re-acquire *command of the target*.)

Quick response. The floating-box also allows the FBI to react quickly to a target who is attempting to evade surveillance. If the target unexpectedly makes a left turn, for example, the left *outrider vehicle* turns left and becomes the new *advance vehicle*. The other elements in the team shift roles as appropriate. More on this later.

Signature shift. The floating-box makes it possible to quickly alter the signature of the team, making them more difficult to detect. In the previous illustration of the floating-box system, there are five surveillance vehicles. At first glance one might assume they can be reconfigured five different ways if they switch roles. In actual practice, a team of five vehicles can be reconfigured $5 \times 4 \times 3 \times 2 \times 1 = 120$ different ways. Not all of these configurations are useful in the field, especially when the command vehicle's role is unchanged. In practice, about two dozen configurations are practical – more than enough to deceive most targets.

The FBI's stakeout box...

A vehicle surveillance operation begins with a *stakeout box*. The FBI watches your office or residence, waiting for you to get in your vehicle and drive away. At that moment the *stakeout box* becomes a *floating-box*. The image shown below illustrates the basic components of an FBI stakeout box.



The target's vehicle is shown in blue. The vehicles of the surveillance team are depicted in gray. The image is not rendered to scale. Distances are much greater in the real world.

Assignments

Note how vehicles Alpha, Brava, Charlie, and Delta are prepositioned. They are pointed away from the parked *target vehicle*. Each of these four *layup vehicles* is ready to initiate a *follow*, no matter which direction the target takes.

Trigger vehicle. The *trigger vehicle* is responsible for maintaining visual contact with the parked *target vehicle*. When the target begins to drive away, the agent in the *trigger vehicle* alerts the other members of the *stakeout box*. The agent is triggering the rest of the team into action – hence the name, *trigger vehicle*.

Layup vehicle. After being alerted by the *trigger vehicle*, the appropriate *layup vehicle* – Alpha, Bravo, Charlie, or Delta – picks up the *follow* and becomes the *command vehicle*. The other vehicles assume roles as *outriders* and *backup* until the team can be augmented with other FBI vehicles being held in reserve.

Picking up the follow. In a smoothly-run stakeout box, the *layup vehicle* that is initiating the *follow* will often pull out in front of the target vehicle, as shown in the illustration above. The layup vehicle becomes the *command vehicle*, with *command of the target*. When the command vehicle is in front of the moving target vehicle, it is called *cheating*. A *cheating command vehicle* is more difficult to detect than a command vehicle that is following the target.

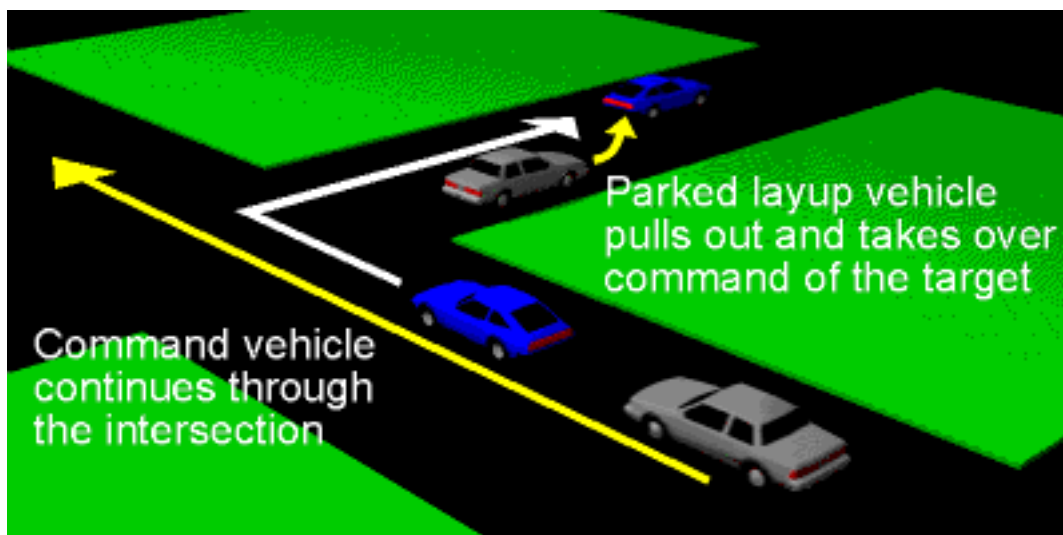
Command of the target...

The phrase *command of the target* refers to visual contact with the target of the surveillance operation. The surveillance vehicle having command of the target is called the *command vehicle*.

The name is appropriate, for the command vehicle also has virtual command of the entire surveillance team. The agent in the command vehicle informs the rest of the team whenever the target vehicle changes direction, adjusts speed, or stops. The surveillance team follows the guidance of the command vehicle. The

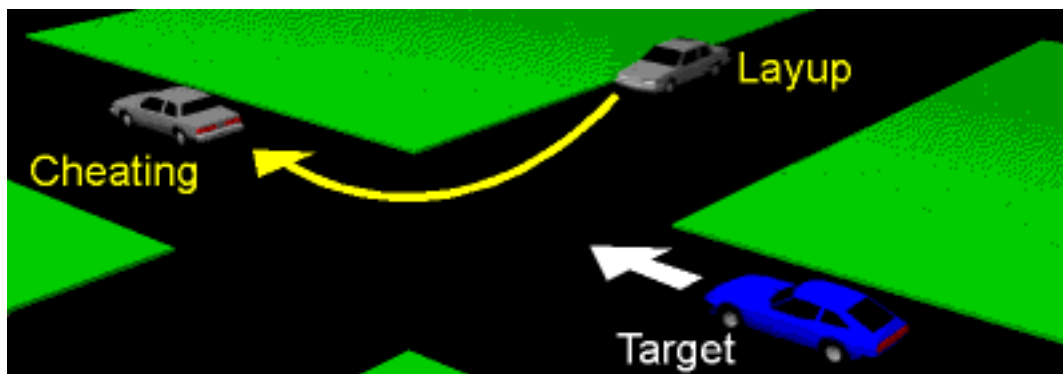
control and power that is provided by this approach is offset by the *vulnerability* of the command vehicle. In many surveillance operations, it is the command vehicle that is first detected by the target. In order to overcome this vulnerability, the FBI has developed a number of tactics to dupe the target of the surveillance operation.

Hand-off. The image shown below provides an example of how the FBI often reacts to a turn by the target vehicle.



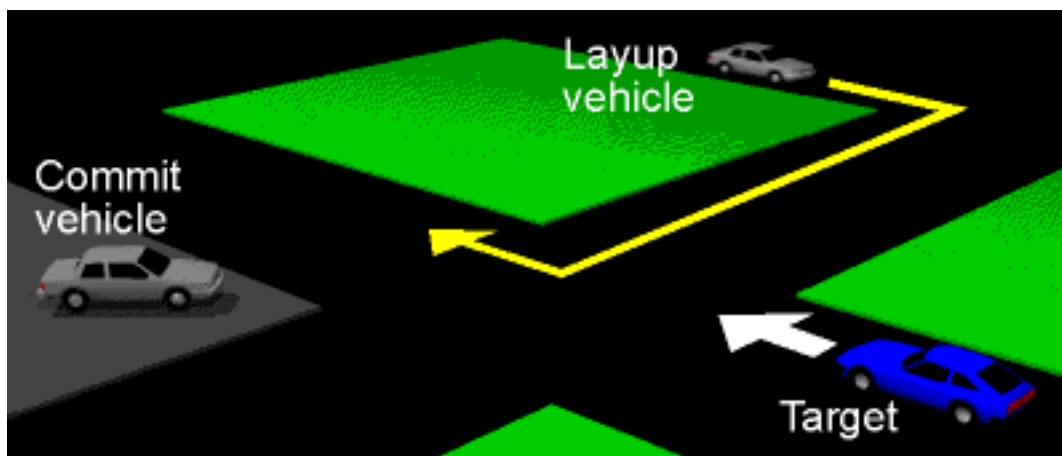
After watching the target make a right turn at the intersection, the *command vehicle* continues straight through the intersection. The agent has, however, alerted one of the *layup vehicles* that the FBI has prepositioned at major *decision points* along the target's route. As you can see from the illustration above, this is a very potent maneuver. The target sees the car that has been following him continue straight through the intersection. He starts to question whether or not he was actually under surveillance – perhaps he was just "imagining things". As a result, the *layup vehicle* is often able to pick up *the follow* without attracting any suspicion.

Cheating. The image shown below shows a variation on this maneuver. Instead of pulling in behind the target, the *layup vehicle* acquires *command of the target* by pulling out ahead of the target. This is called a *cheating* command. It has fooled a lot of suspects of FBI investigations.



A *hard target*, however, will eventually notice a *telltale pattern* of vehicles on side streets who pull away from the curb and turn the corner in front of him. (This is how you detect surveillance teams – by watching for patterns of behavior around you.)

Commit vehicle. In order to further disguise their activities, the FBI often utilizes a *commit vehicle*, as shown in the illustration below.

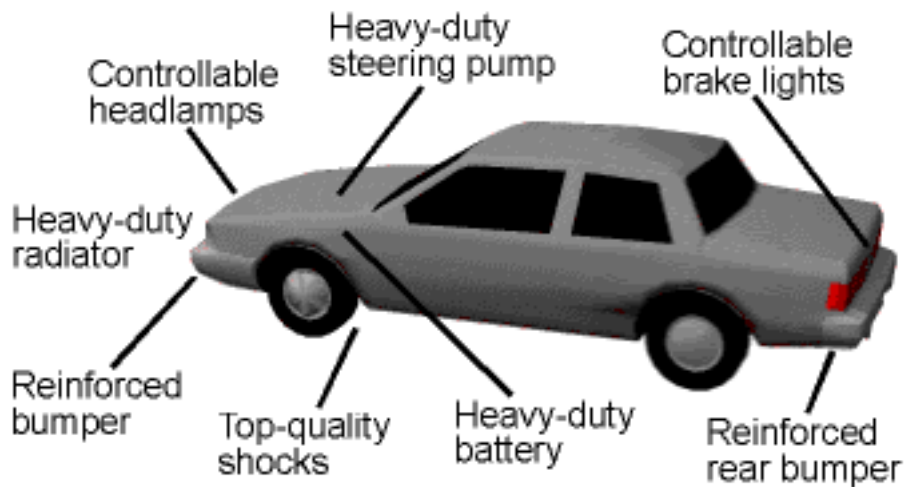


The *commit vehicle* is prepositioned at a major *decision point* along the target's route. The FBI agent in the commit vehicle is charged with watching the approaching target vehicle. His assignment is to observe when the target has committed himself to a specific route. Hence the name *commit vehicle*. Because he is parked in a parking lot, driveway, or side street, his presence is difficult to detect by the target.

Using a tactic like this allows the *layup vehicle* to be parked out of sight, as shown in the image above. At the appropriate moment the *commit vehicle* cues the *layup vehicle* to begin moving. This permits the layup vehicle to smoothly enter the situation and acquire *command of the target* without attracting the attention of the target. The target does not see the layup vehicle pull away from the curb – he only sees what appears to be just another vehicle in the normal flow of traffic.

Vehicle modifications...

The FBI employs a potpourri of different vehicles in its surveillance operations. *Wheel artists* drive anything and everything, including sedans, coupes, station wagons, pickup trucks, vans, minivans, sport utility vehicles, taxis, motorcycles, commercial trucks, ambulances, 18-wheelers, and others. Many of these surveillance vehicles have been specially modified for their role. See the illustration below.



Probably the most significant modification is the addition of cutout switches and dimmer switches for many of the lights on the surveillance vehicle.

Headlamps. The driver can disable either of the front headlamps. He can also adjust the brightness of the headlamps. This provides a tremendous advantage at night – the agent can alter the way her vehicle appears to other drivers. For part of the *follow* the surveillance vehicle has two normal headlamps. For a while it might show only the left headlamp. And for part of the *follow* the vehicle might exhibit dimmed headlamps, suggestive of a faulty alternator or low battery condition. Many unwitting targets of surveillance have been completely hoodwinked by this feature.

Brake lights. The FBI agent can also disable the vehicle's brake lights. This is particularly effective when the agent has a *cheating command* of the target. That means the FBI agent is positioned ahead of the target. If the agent's brake lights are not continually flashing, the target is less likely to detect that the agent is adjusting her speed in order to maintain a constant distance in front of the target. Again, many targets have been fooled by this modification.

Stall switch. Some FBI surveillance vehicles are equipped with a *stall switch*. This allows the *wheel artist* to simulate a vehicle breakdown. This deception is particularly effective in helping the FBI recover from mistakes during a *follow*. Stalled in front of the target vehicle, and apparently unable to get the vehicle restarted, an FBI agent is able to delay the target until the rest of the surveillance team gets back in position.

Bumpers. FBI surveillance vehicles can be equipped with reinforced ramming bumpers. These are effective when agents need to prevent a suspect from fleeing – or force a victim off the road at high speed.

Standard modifications. Because of the stress involved in constant on-road use, FBI mechanics routinely make a number of standard modifications to the Bureau's surveillance vehicles. They often install a heavy-duty radiator and battery. A heavy-duty steering pump is also a common feature. These, along with top-quality shocks and springs, enhance the *staying power* of the vehicle during long *follows*. One of our contacts has recently told us that the FBI uses stainless steel brake lines in many of its surveillance vehicles. This modification apparently boosts performance by overcoming certain types of condensation and heat-related problems during some weather conditions.

Driver communications...

A typical radio transmission between FBI *wheel artists* goes something like this. "*Gamma is flipping. Possible spark or smoke.*" In plain language, this means "*The target vehicle has just made a U-turn. He may have detected us.*" By using communication codes, the FBI is able to reduce the chances of an eavesdropper figuring out what's going on. Anyone picking up a stray signal is unlikely to realize that it's from a surveillance team. For examples of surveillance team communication codes, return to our home page and click on *Surveillance codes*.

Why you never see them communicating. FBI agents are trained to conceal their voice communications. Often two agents will be riding in one vehicle. In order to disguise a radio transmission, the agent in the passenger seat will turn his/her head towards the driver while transmitting. If you're stopped at a red light ahead of the FBI surveillance vehicle, all you'll see in the rear view mirror is two people who *appear* to be talking to each other.

During a surveillance operation, FBI agents can use either their body rigs or the vehicle radio sets for transmitting. The body rig includes a standalone, internally mounted ear-piece that is virtually undetectable unless you're looking for it. The effective range of the FBI's standard body rig is much less than their vehicle radio sets. Both the body-rig and the vehicle set offer hands-free operation.

CASE STUDY: Hostile situation. When an FBI agent finds herself alone in a congested traffic situation with the target – and perhaps under close visual scrutiny by a suspicious target – she can still transmit critical information to the team leader. She simply clicks her tongue instead of talking. Here's an example.

Wheel artist – numerous clicks.

Controller – "Is that you, Echo?"

Wheel artist – two clicks (*Yes*).

Controller – "Are you in command of the target?"

Wheel artist – two clicks (*Yes*).

Controller – "Has the target made contact with the other suspect yet?"

Wheel artist – silence (Possible *No*).

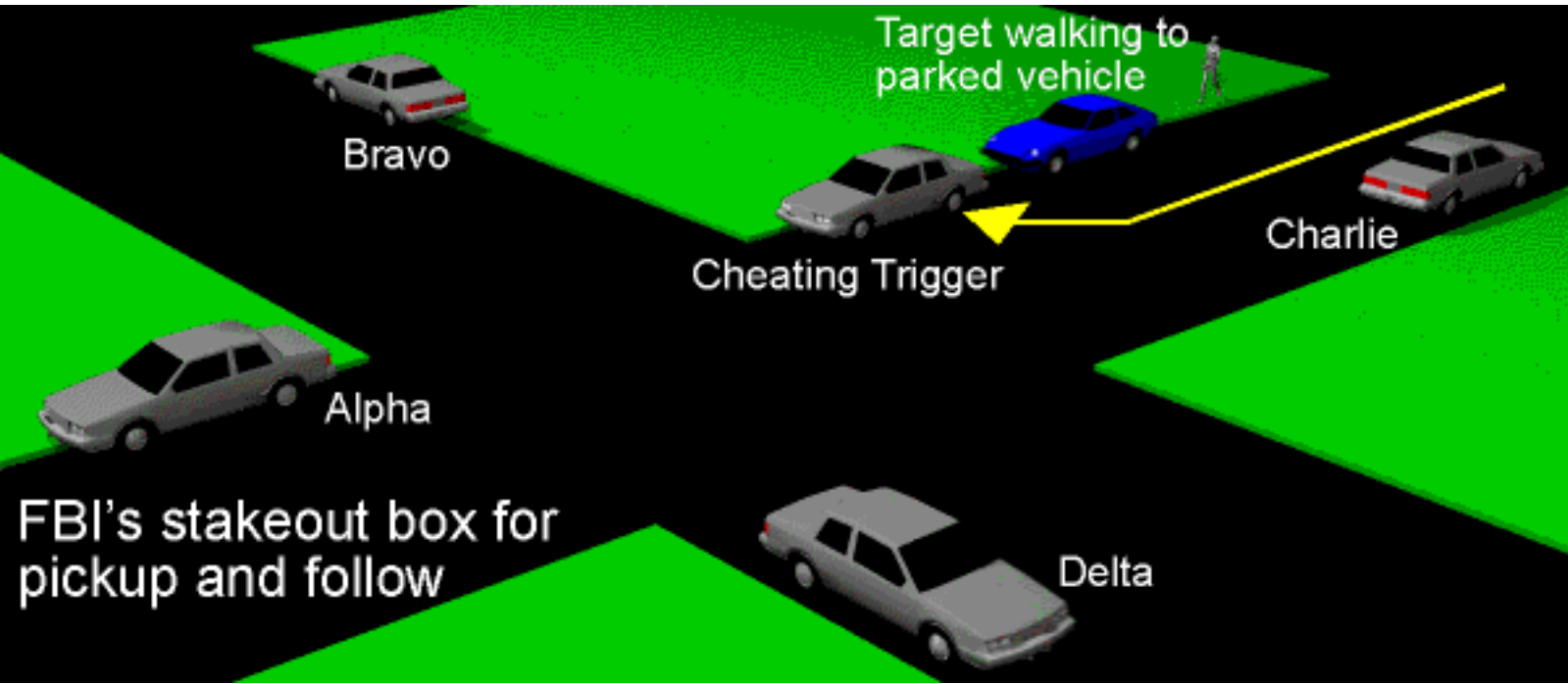
Controller – "Is the target *not* in contact with the suspect?"

Wheel artist – Two clicks (*Yes*).

And so it continues, two clicks meaning *Yes*, silence meaning *No*.

Real-time communication...

The FBI has found that agent-to-agent communication *in real-time* is a vital component of a productive surveillance operation. Real-time communication gives the surveillance team a tactical advantage over the target. The illustration shown below provides a good example of this principle.



As the target walks back towards his parked vehicle, the various members of the vehicle surveillance team take up positions in a standard stakeout box. Note how *layup* vehicles Alpha, Bravo, Charlie, and Delta are facing away from the target's vehicle, ready to pick up the follow and assume *command of the target* no matter which direction the target takes. Equally important is the *trigger* vehicle. As shown in the illustration above, one of the ruses the FBI uses is to pull in and park ahead of the target's parked vehicle. This is called a *cheating trigger*. Being in front of the target, the FBI agent is less likely to attract suspicion, but he is still in a position to cue other members of the surveillance team when the target begins to drive away. This makes for a seamless transition from the *foot surveillance* team to the *vehicle surveillance* team.

In particular, the trigger vehicle transmits the start-time, direction of travel, and speed of the target's vehicle to the other members of the surveillance team. The appropriate layup vehicle can smoothly pick up the *follow* and assume command of the target because he has advance knowledge of the target's direction, etc., thanks to the radio transmission from the FBI agent in the trigger vehicle. The lesson is obvious. Your adversary is the *entire* surveillance team, not just the FBI agents you happen to spot.

Exposing the FBI's secrets: Basic tactics...

Cover. Camouflage is an important component of an FBI vehicle surveillance operation. FBI agents drive *anything and everything*, including sedans, coupes, utility vehicles, vans, trucks, four-wheel drive, minivans, commercial trucks, taxis, motorcycles, and even 18-wheelers. Likewise, the FBI agents themselves come in all shapes and sizes. You'll see many different *silhouettes*. (That's spy-talk for the *personal appearance* of an agent.) When you're under FBI surveillance, you can expect to see singles, couples, families, seniors, disabled, rappers, and so on. Anybody with a pulse might be part of an FBI surveillance team.

A common mistake. If you're like most people, you might be thinking to yourself, "*There's no way they'd use a sweet little sixty-year-old grandmother.*" Yeah, right. Grow up, and stop being such a patsy. The FBI loves *rubes* like you. Or maybe you're thinking, "*No way they'd use a punk rapper with cranked-up music blaring from his car stereo.*" Uh huh. Start packing your toothbrush, doofus. Because the goons don't give you much time when they come a-knockin' an hour before dawn.

The most important lesson you'll ever learn. Any competent surveillance team – no matter which agency it's from – will use your preconceptions, prejudices, and personal biases *against you*. So stop leaping to conclusions based on peoples' appearance. Go back and read that last sentence again. If you want to catch surveillance teams, you need to start evaluating people based on what they *do*, not what they *look like*. To catch spooks, you need to size people up by their *behavior*, not their *appearance*.

Fundamental tactics...

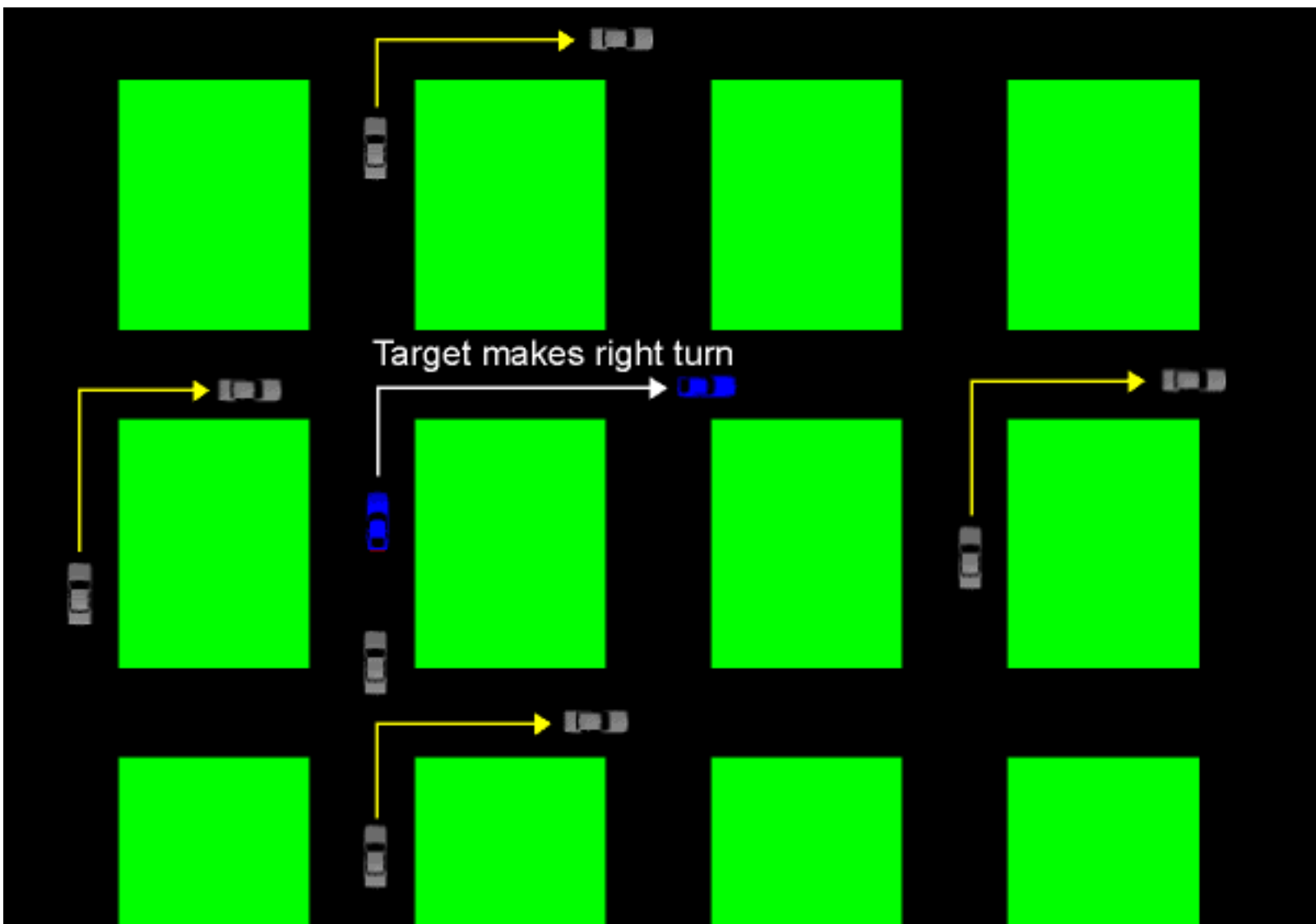
As you learned in the previous article in this series, the FBI utilizes a floating box to track you during a vehicle surveillance operation. The essential components of the box are the command vehicle, the backup vehicle, the left and right outrider vehicles, and the advance vehicle.

Under typical circumstances, the floating box is a powerful and versatile system of vehicle surveillance. The only occasions that cause concern to the FBI are when the target makes a turn. As you learned in the previous tutorial, a surveillance vehicle that follows a target around the corner is easy to spot. The illustration below shows how the FBI has overcome this weakness.



As shown in the illustration above, each *cheating* FBI vehicle takes a different route. The FBI has every possible scenario covered. No matter which route you choose, a *cheating* FBI surveillance vehicle (positioned in front of you) has you covered. Many targets of surveillance have been repeatedly fooled by this tactic. The illustration below shows a more common implementation of this intersection maneuver. At a typical intersection, the target vehicle can proceed in three different directions – left, right, or straight ahead. In a high-priority investigation where the FBI does not want to be detected, the team leader will place three surveillance vehicles ahead of the target.

As shown above, each vehicle takes a possible route that the target might take. It doesn't matter which direction the target chooses, she is covered by a *cheating command vehicle*. This technique is very difficult to detect in the short-term. (See the fourth tutorial in this five-part series for tips on how to provoke a surveillance team into revealing itself.) The technique is also expensive in terms of personnel and vehicles, so the FBI uses it mainly at major intersections. Side-street situations are handled by the method depicted below.

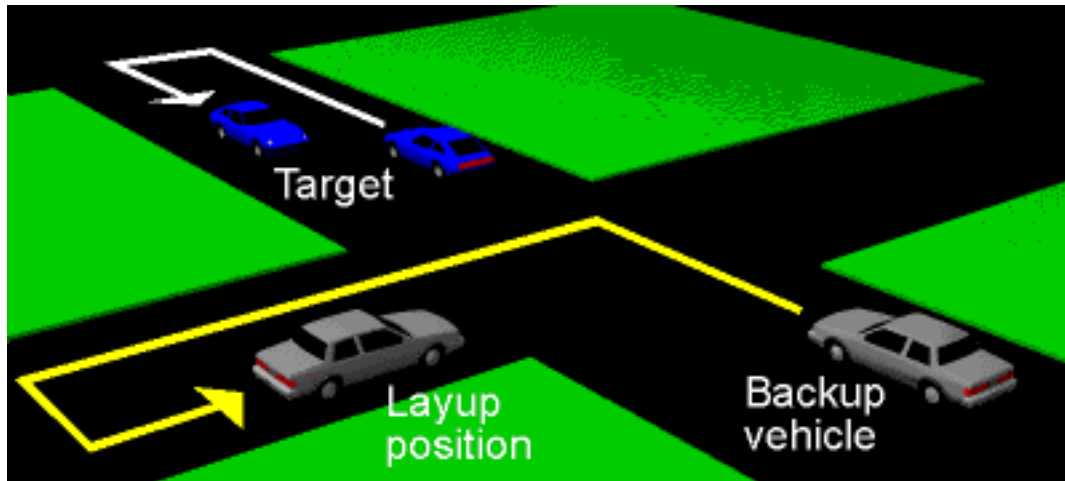


How a floating box turns. When the target makes a right turn at an intersection, the right-side *outrider* also turns right – and becomes the new *advance* vehicle. As shown above, other members of the surveillance team also transform their roles. The former *advance* vehicle becomes the new left-side *outrider*. The *backup* vehicle becomes the new right-side *outrider*. And the left-side *outrider* becomes the new *command* vehicle.

In the situation shown above, the former command vehicle usually continues straight through the intersection, so as not to attract attention to itself. It will be replaced by another FBI agent being held in reserve by the team leader. The same principles apply when the target makes a left turn at a side-street intersection. Because this type of maneuver by the surveillance team results in predictable positions, an experienced target can use a deliberate turn as an *antisurveillance method* to detect the outriders and advance units of the surveillance team. For more information about antisurveillance and countersurveillance techniques, see the fourth tutorial in this five-part series.

Special situations...

An especially troublesome situation for the vehicle surveillance team is a sudden U-turn by the target. In many instances, the FBI has no way of knowing if the target simply missed his turn or if he is executing a deliberate antisurveillance or countersurveillance maneuver. The illustration below depicts how the FBI typically responds to a sudden U-turn.



The backup vehicle immediately makes a left turn. This puts the FBI agent in a position to monitor the target and slip in behind him as he drives past. While this is happening, the other members of the surveillance team will be doing their best to redeploy in the new configuration. Many newcomers who find themselves under FBI vehicle surveillance soon grasp the idea that U-turns are an effective way to befuddle the surveillance team. These *newbies* tend to make a U-turn and then try to detect vehicles "following" them. What they should be doing instead is watching for a vehicle making a quick left turn in response to the target's sudden U-turn. Over a period of a few days, make a few unpredictable, sudden U-turns. If you see a pattern of vehicles turning away immediately after your U-turn, you may be under surveillance.

Diversions and decoys...

The FBI has become sophisticated in its use of diversions and decoys to cover the activities of its vehicle surveillance teams.

Diversion #1 – Tailgating. That inconsiderate driver tailgating you is not always just some *shmuck*. The FBI has found that this diversion is an excellent way to take your mind off other things that may be happening around you, like surveillance, for example.

Diversion #2 – Musical chairs. You're stopped at a red light, and the *bozo* in the car ahead of you gets out and rummages through his trunk. Yeah, right. You get the picture.

Diversion #3 – Confused drivers. They take forever to make a left turn. Or they straddle lanes. Or they start to make a turn, then change their mind and continue on. All of this happens directly in front of you, of course. It's an effective distraction. It's also an effective way to *delay you* while the rest of the surveillance team gets back

into position after a mistake.

Diversion #4 – Sloppy drivers. This is the same maneuver as above, except that the FBI agent pretends to be a reckless driver. He might drive over the curb. He might speed and careen recklessly. Anything to get your mind off the situation and allow the other members of the surveillance team to escape detection.

Diversion #5 – Honey pots. The FBI will use pedestrians (attractive agents of the opposite gender) to distract you while you're driving. They use this ruse a lot more than most people realize. It's an incredibly effective way to divert the attention of the target. They'll also use customized cars and other eye-catching items or behavior to capture your attention.

Supporting the foot surveillance team...

FBI surveillance vehicles often contain one or two additional FBI agents *besides the driver*. This provides good cover. Most targets don't suspect a car containing a *group* of people. This is not the reason, however, that the FBI uses groups. The extra people in the surveillance vehicle are there for a reason. They are important assets in the FBI's arsenal of surveillance tricks.

Foot surveillance. When the target parks his vehicle and sets off on foot, the vehicle surveillance team switches modes. The *wheel artists* immediately begin dropping off the *pavement artists* who will form a *floating box* around the walking target. The vehicle surveillance team then assumes a *support role*, assisting the *foot surveillance* team. In particular, an FBI vehicle surveillance team will support the foot surveillance team in five ways.

Support Role #1 – Transition. The *wheel artists* drop off the foot agents in a *floating box* around a *target* who has just left his/her vehicle.

Support Role #2 – Leapfrogging. During the *foot follow*, the wheel artists will pick up, carry, and drop off FBI *pavement artists* at locations ahead of the walking target. This makes it easier to maintain a secure floating box around the target by leapfrogging members of the FBI team to locations where they are needed.

Support Role #3 – Communications. The vehicle surveillance team will provide reception and *rebroadcast* of the low-range body-communications equipment of the FBI *foot surveillance* agents. This is important in locations where radio reception can be difficult, such as high-density urban situations with concrete and steel buildings. Look for a vehicle with a lone occupant at high elevation – atop a parkade, for example. During a foot surveillance operation in difficult terrain (downtown, for example), this FBI agent is positioned to receive weak transmissions from a *pavement artist* and rebroadcast them to the rest of the team.

Support Role #4 – Orientation. The *wheel artists* will provide *map* and *direction-finding* support to the pavement artists. This is particularly helpful during a *lost-command drill*, where the foot surveillance team has temporarily lost sight of the target. Map support also helps the foot surveillance team anticipate upcoming obstacles.

Support Role #5 – Transportation. After the target returns to his/her vehicle, the vehicle surveillance team *picks up* the foot operators and *carries them* to the next location.

Conclusion. When implemented properly, the FBI's floating-box strategy is an effective vehicle surveillance system that gets results. Most targets never realize they're being watched. Those targets who manage to detect a

command vehicle or *backup* vehicle are likely to be lulled into a false sense of safety by the *cheating* command vehicles and *cheating* intersection maneuvers. The mix of agent silhouettes and vehicles used by the surveillance team makes detection extremely difficult for the untrained target.

Thank you for reading our third edition

Tremendously valuable resources

Resist.com	http://www.ncmilitia.org/spycounterspy/
Howtobeinvisible.com	http://www.backwoodshome.com/articles2/wood115.html
http://www.martykaiser.com/report~1.htm	https://thementalmilitia.com/forums/

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